

CAREER LEVELS

Professional preparation is vital to improving the quality of early care and learning environments. Professional development in the *Georgia Early Care and Education Professional Development System* takes into account training, education, and experience. By noting your achievements and number of years experience in working with young children, you can mark your professional accomplishments using the following chart.

<p>Level I Professionals beginning their career in early care and education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ High school diploma or GED; and ♦ 0 to 3 years of direct care experience with young children; and ♦ 0 to 30 clock hours of state approved/accepted training 	<p>Level V Professionals beginning their formal education in the early care and education field:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Technical Certificate of Credit (TCC) in Early Childhood Education or Child Development 	<p>Level IX Professionals with a Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) teaching certificate in the Early Care / Early Education field.</p>
<p>Level II Professionals who have been in the early care and education field for a few years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ High school diploma or GED; and ♦ 2 or more years of direct care experience with young children; and ♦ 31 to 60 clock hours of state approved/accepted training 	<p>Level VI Professionals who have earned formal education credit in the early care and education field:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Technical College Diploma (TCD) in Early Childhood Education or Child Development 	<p>Level X Professionals with a graduate degree in the early care and education field:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Masters degree (MA/MS/MEd) in Early Childhood Education or Child Development
<p>Level III More experienced professionals in the early care and education field:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ High school diploma or GED; and ♦ 3 or more years of direct care experience with young children; and ♦ 61 or more clock hours of state approved/accepted training 	<p>Level VII Professionals with a two-year degree in the early care and education field:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Associate degree (AA/AS or AAS/AAT) in Early Childhood Education or Child Development or ♦ Montessori Diploma 	<p>Level XI Professionals with a Specialist degree in the early care and education field:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Specialist Degree (EdS) in Early Childhood Education or Child Development
<p>Level IV Professionals with a credential in the early care and education field:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Unrelated Degree (Associate, Bachelor, Masters or Doctorate in non-ECE-related field) or ♦ Current Child Development Associate (CDA) or ♦ PSC-certified ParaProfessional (FLD691) 	<p>Level VIII Professionals with a four-year degree in the early care education field:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Bachelor Degree (BA/BS) in Early Childhood Education or Child Development 	<p>Level XII Professionals with a Doctoral degree in the early care and education field:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Doctoral Degree (PhD/EdD) in Early Childhood Education or Child Development

Training, credentials, degrees, and coursework for the Career Levels must be in the field of Early Childhood Education (ECE), Child Development (CD), or related areas of study. ECE-related credits and coursework reflect the body of knowledge valued in the early care and education field. While many professionals may have a degree in a field outside of ECE, the Career Levels recognize specific academic preparation in ECE. If a degree major is not ECE or CD, the transcript will be reviewed by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission for ECE-related credits or coursework. Degrees are considered ECE-related if the transcripts document a minimum of 15 semester hours or 25 quarter hours of ECE-related coursework.